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DEPARTMENT OF RED CROSS NURSING

IN CHARGE OF

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Director, Department of Nursing

FIRST RED CROSS CHAPTER CONFERENCE DISCUSSES HEALTH PROGRAM FOR YEAR

The First National Conference of American Red Cross Chapters was held at Headquarters on December 6 and 7, with approximately 300 delegates from the fourteen divisions throughout the United States in attendance. It is the first conference at which the chapters of the organization have held an open forum and is considered one of the most effective of recent conventions.

The keynote of the two days' discussion was the development of the Red Cross Peace Program and its significance. The responsibilities of the Department of Nursing in the new program are best summed up in part of the general statement made by Dr. Livingston Farrand, Chairman of the Central Committee, who presided throughout the session. To quote Dr. Farrand:

In public health nursing, the central factor of any community health work, we have what is recognized as one of the traditional activities of the Red Cross and one which requires no discussion before this audience. Similarly, when we deal with classes of women and girls in Home Care of the Sick, we are making a contribution the importance of which cannot be overestimated. The fact that during the past year more than ninety thousand were enrolled in these classes is evidence of the widespread service of the Red Cross. Surely these parts of our program are not vague. They are definite pieces of work which no other agency is in a position to accomplish.

The other outstanding health service of the Red Cross is designed to aid in coördinating the health efforts of our American communities through health centers. They should be adapted to the needs of the community in every case and vary as such needs indicate. Let us never forget that in developing the health service of the Red Cross in any of its aspects, we are always looking forward to the time when our public officials shall have the support and authority necessary to carry on these tasks. We are simply a demonstrating and assisting agency in the meantime.

The Red Cross peace program is not vague. There may be many aspects, but the ideals are clear. We are trying to make the Red Cross a living factor in the upbuilding of our American community in so far as such activity is consistent with the responsibility and charter of the organization as it stands. We do not intend to do everything. We do not intend to branch out into every kind of field. We intend that the Red Cross shall choose certain fairly well defined lines of activity and confine itself to those lines of activity as being legitimate fields of Red Cross action.

AMERICAN NURSES HONORED IN MEMORY OF THE LATE JANE A. DELANO

At the annual meeting held at Red Cross National Headquarters on December 8, significant recognition of the service rendered by American nurses in war and peace was given by conferring in memory of the late Jane A. Delano, their leader in the World War, the Distinguished Service Medal of the American Red Cross, in gold. This is the first time this medal has been conferred and is the highest honor the American Red Cross can bestow.

The resolution authorizing the conferring of the medal was offered by Eliot Wadsworth, member of the Central Committee, and was as follows:

Since the days of Florence Nightingale and the first conception of the Red Cross idea, the work of the trained nurse has constituted a veritable symbol of the meaning and purpose of Red Cross effort. For many years one of the distinct functions of the Red Cross has been to assist in maintaining the highest standards of Nursing Service, in preparation for alleviating the pain and distress incident to possible warfare, and for service in peace time with the civilian population. And now, as the American Red Cross is entering upon its peace program, the service of the graduate nurse in the homes of the sick and the afflicted will constitute a more and more important and appealing feature of Red Cross effort.

The Nursing Service of the American Red Cross was organized and almost from its inception conducted under the leadership of Miss Jane A. Delano, who died on April 15, 1919, but who during her whole life typified the gentlest and the most beautiful qualities of American womanhood. During the period immediately preceding the great war, Miss Delano, by her skill, perseverance and inspiring leadership, contributed effectively to the organization of a nursing reserve for the Army, Navy and Public Health Service which enrolled 36,916 nurses for war and other purposes. She was throughout the period of hostilities in charge of the American Red Cross Nursing Service. Those who knew her realized at all times that it was her dearest wish to dedicate her life to developing the future program of Red Cross service incident to the coming peace.

Whereas, It has been the feeling of the American Red Cross that it could not confer its Distinguished Service Medal upon any American citizen for service during the war without violating the sensibilities of that great body of our people who found their supreme recognition and compensation in the mere opportunity during the war to serve the American Red Cross,

Nevertheless, In view of the service, so unobtrusive yet always so vital, performed by the trained nurse during the war, before the war and now, and in view of Miss Delano's great distinction and devoted spirit in that service,

Be It Resolved, by the General Board, that the Distinguished Service Medal of the American Red Cross in gold be conferred in memory of Miss Jane A. Delano.

Mrs. August Belmont, a member of the Central Committee, seconded the resolution. In a brief but eloquent address, she paid tribute to the memory of Miss Delano and to the significant and noble services rendered by the nurses who were inspired by her leadership.

The resolution was unanimously adopted by a silent standing vote.

ATTENTION! NURSES IN ARMY, NAVY, OR U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

The attention of nurses who have been reappointed to service is called to the fact that a time limit has been fixed by many states in which application may be made for State bonus, given to nurses in service during the war. If there are those who are entitled to this bonus and have not applied for the same, it is suggested that they communicate with the State Bonus Board, in the capitol of the state in which they are residents. Should they have received the information that the time limit has expired, the Bonus Board advises that the nurses file their applications, nevertheless, as there is a possibility of the bonus legislation being reopened.

MISS NOYES COMPLETES NURSING SURVEY ON THE CONTINENT

According to the most recent communications, Clara D. Noyes, Director of the Department of Nursing, American Red Cross, who has just completed a survey of Red Cross nursing activities in Europe, will return to this country about Christmas.

Miss Noyes' work has covered a period of three months and has taken her from Red Cross Headquarters in Paris into some of the most war devastated sectors of the Continent. Helen Scott Hay, Chief Nurse to the A. R. C. Commission to Europe, accompanied Miss Noyes on her tour. Their itinerary included Prague, Czecho-Slovakia; Warsaw, Poland; Vienna, Austria Hungary; Belgrade, Serbia; Sofia, Bulgaria; Athens, Greece; and portions of Albania and Montenegro.

In covering this territory, Miss Noyes has gathered valuable information for the constructive Red Cross European nursing program and the essential needs of the people for the ensuing year.

NORWEGIAN NURSE ENVOY TO TEACHERS COLLEGE

Graduate trained nurses average ten, twelve, and fourteen hours of day duty and fourteen hours of night duty in Norway, according to Aagot Larsen, a graduate of a hospital in Christiania, Norway, her home. Miss Larsen is now taking the Instructors' Course at Teachers College, Columbia University. She is the envoy of her hospital, which is very eager to introduce into Norway American methods of conducting training schools in connection with their hospitals. The eighthour day now being introduced into some American hospitals, and the excellent instruction now being given in food selection have interested Miss Larsen particularly.